

SPORTS

Ice-hockey marathon gets under way

On April 16-May 2, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Sweden, Finland, the FRG, Italy, and the GDR will clash in Dortmund, Duisburg, and Munich for the world and European titles.

Only insignificant changes were made to the USSR line-up, the hot favourites and 10-time world titleholders. Coaches Viktor Tikhonov and Vladimir Yurzakov called up ace from the Moscow Central Army Club, Spartak, and Dynamo, Gorky, Torpedo, and Riga Dynamos among them, goalies Freyak and Myshkin, defencemen Pavukhkin, Bilyalov, new, Petrov, Kasatov, Babinov, Zil'kov, I. Chirayev, Stachkov, and attackers Kirov, Ivanov, Makarov, Baldukh, Shepelyev, Kapustin, Matsev, Zhukov, Skvorcov, Khozakov, Bykov, and Vasilev.



The only debutants are Bykov and Vasilev, and Baldukh was recruited again after a several-year interval.

The championship's formula is not unlike a lottery: the eight teams will first meet in a one-round tournament for the Euro-

pean title, with the top four later to play three games each among themselves for the world championship awards. The championship novelty is that the points scored at the preliminary stage will not be counted towards the total scoring. This is

why one just can't rule out the possibility that the winner might not be the actually strongest side. The other four teams will clash for 5th-8th places.

Photos by Vitaly Blagodarov and Boris Svetlanov

Chess: Competition getting keener

With the ninth round ending the first half of the men's national chess championship in Moscow, Lev Psakhis of Hungary is 5-2 and needed just half point to win the match, but having availed himself of one break due him (Portisch had already tied his), he lost the eighth game, with his lead shrunk to 3-3.

Also at Bad Kissingen, Liliya Semenova of the USSR successfully lost two games to Margarita Muresan of Romania (after a break, which Muresan had al-

ready enjoyed), and the opponents are now level at 4-4. At Alicante, Spain, Zoltán Ribli of Hungary leads Eugene Torre of the Philippines 4-2, having won the fifth and sixth games after four draws. Also at Alicante, Tatyana Lemachko of Switzerland took a break against Nana Alexandria of the USSR and went on to suffer one more defeat.

Viktor BADKIN, chess observer



Russian Federation team member Tatyana Nenakhova, from Moscow, on Garus, won the USSR dressage cup.

Photo by Vyncheslav Karataev

Champions again

The Kiev Spartak women's club has won the handball national title by defeating Krasnodar Selskhoztekhnika 32-18, with six games left to go in the championship.

They scored 26 wins to finish with an unblemished slate.

carried in the editions of both "Moscow News" and "MN Information" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

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Address: 16/2 Gorky St. Printed by the "Virkus" Publ. Moscow, USSR. Published Tuesday and Saturday. Index 50078. MN INFORMATION No. 36

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR considered the results of the implementation of the State Plan of the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for the first quarter of 1983.

In the first quarter, industrial production had grown 4.7 per cent over the first quarter of 1982. Labour productivity in industry went up 3.9 per cent, 5.1 per cent in the railways, and 4.2 per cent in construction.

EDITORIAL BOARD

The raising of the standard of living programme continued to be implemented. The average monthly wages for industrial and office workers went up 3 per cent by comparison to the first quarter of 1982, while retail services for the population rose 6.4 per cent. Over nine million square metres of housing has been commissioned and paid for from state capital investments.

DEAR READERS!

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CHRISTIAN AUTHORITIES SUPPORT PEACE

Uppsala (Sweden). The World Christian Conference, attended by over 150 representatives of various Christian denominations from 62 countries, has begun here, under the motto, "Life and Peace".

The goal of this international forum, initiated by the Christian churches of the northern countries, is to rally the efforts of Christians all over the world to promote lasting peace and combat the threat of thermonuclear disaster now facing mankind.

In his message of greeting to the conference, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme stressed

MEMORANDUM OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

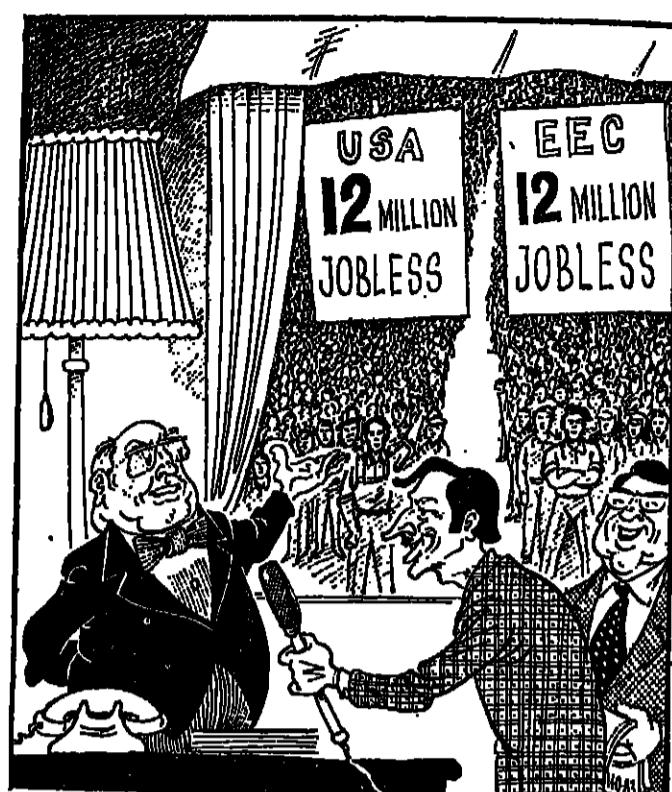
Pyongyang. The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people are firmly opposed to the creation of the United States — Japan — South Korea triple military alliance, stresses a memorandum circulated here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The new aggressive bloc being thrown together by American imperialism in the Far East, it is pointed out in the memorandum, creates a serious threat to the peoples of Asia and to peace security world-wide.

The memorandum denounces the shipment to South Korea of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear ones. It sharply

that the drive for peace and against the nuclear threat is the main goal today. The movement to remove this threat numbers hundreds of thousands of people in various countries, including Christians, who have made a notable contribution to the strengthening of peace, and the current conference serves as a good indication of this.

The forum was timed to coincide with a signature campaign for an appeal for peace and disarmament, which began here last October at the initiative of the Swedish Council of Christian Churches. Over 600,000 Swedes have signed it to date.

In his message of greeting to the conference, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme stressed



As you see, we are on an equal footing with our allies.
Drawing by Yuri Ivanov

PUWP Politbureau meets in Warsaw

Warsaw. PAP-TASS. A joint meeting has been held here by the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and the Presidium of the Polish United Workers' Party and the Presidium of the Polish government.

The meeting stressed that the results of the first quarter of 1983 show an improvement in the situation in the national economy. It was stated that there had been continuing progress in the normalization of the social and political situation, which is sought by the Polish Community in general, and in particular by the working class.

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At the same time, the meeting took note of provocative plans both inside Poland and abroad to disrupt the May Day celebrations. The stabilization in the internal situation in Poland is following the plans of the counter-revolutionaries, and this will

canisters are designed to drop from planes over "enemy positions". The deputy believes that the very nature of the order proves that Canada is still involved in experiments with offensive types of chemical weapons. This refutes the assertions made by National Defense Minister Gilles Lamontagne about the exclusively defensive nature of these weapons.

Canada designs new chemical weapons

Ottawa. Canada is designing new weapons for chemical warfare, says S. de John who represents the New Democratic Party in the Canadian Parliament.

Addressing his colleagues, he said that the Canadian Loran company won a government order last February for manufacturing special canisters for spraying chemical agents. The

canisters are designed to drop from planes over "enemy positions". The deputy believes that the very nature of the order proves that Canada is still involved in experiments with offensive types of chemical weapons. This refutes the assertions made by National Defense Minister Gilles Lamontagne about the exclusively defensive nature of these weapons.

Tel Aviv's "creeping annexation" policy has become so insolent as to have caused even Washington to pay heed to the world community's condemnation of it. Still one should have no illusion about "strict warnings" issuing now and then from overseas to Israel — this is but a propaganda ploy of the White House, whose hypocritical Middle East policy is quite notorious.

At the same time, Israel has mounted a wave of repressive and discriminatory moves to evict the endemic Palestine population from their lands, including mass arrests, using at peaceful demonstrations and demolishing Palestine homes at the least suspicion of the owners' sympathy for the Palestine resistance movement.

To speed up the settlement of the occupied territory, the Israeli authorities are barring access to watering places and pastures for Palestine fellahs and ranchers, and their lands are being confiscated under the false pretext of "security".

The occupation authorities are advertising the "comfort of life" in the alien territories and

unashamedly promising to create new jobs for Israeli settlers as soon as possible, a significant achievement, with the high level of unemployment nationwide. On the other hand, more Israelis are being lured to the West Bank. Tel Aviv is planning to introduce very rigid restrictions on housing construction in Israel proper.

White "scolding" Israel for the construction of new settlements on the West Bank, Washington is stepping up military and economic aid to the Israeli expansionists, enabling them to gain a stronger foothold in the region.

The moral and material support given the aggressor, now an established practice in relations between Washington and Tel Aviv, corroborates the true nature of their imperialist aspirations, including the West Bank, where the USA has joined hands with Israel in building up a new beachhead for bolstering its control of the region.

VIEWPOINT

Vladimir KUDELIN

CREEPING ANNEXATION

In mid-April this year, the Israeli occupation authorities in the city of Nablus on the West Bank of the Jordan started resettling 800 Jewish families in a new Israeli settlement built outside it, spurring vigorous protest from the local Arab population. Recently, Tel Aviv announced a new plan for building another 37 settlements on the West Bank. The plan co-drafted by the World Zionist Organization and the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, envisaging the Jewish population of 30,000 on the West Bank, tripled in the next few years. The figure is due to rise to 1,200,000 by the start of the next century, reaching roughly the size of the local Palestine population.

To speed up the settlement of the occupied territory, the Israeli authorities have launched a broad propaganda campaign, advertising the "comfort of life" in the alien territories and

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SITUATION UNDER SCRUTINY

Geneva. The 38th meeting of the UN Economic Commission for Europe discussed last week pressing issues of the economic situation in Europe.

The organization's secretariat prepared for the discussion a special survey stressing that the West European countries, as well as the USA and Canada, which are also part of the organization, are going through a deepest and most protracted downturn in the past 30 years. Inflation and unemployment are increasing at a heading rate, the jobless figure jumped to 8.5 per cent in 1982.

Many speakers stressed the importance of international cooperation for improving the economic outlook. More specifically, Italy's delegate reported more trade between capitalist and socialist nations. East-West cooperation will help to Western economy and strengthen Austria's delegation.

The delegates of the CEE countries underscored the steady growth of the socialist economy in conditions of full employment and rising standards. The delegates of the GDR, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria denounced discriminatory import and credit measures taken by the USA and its several NATO allies against the socialist states.

Washington. Statements by the president's aides indicate that Ronald Reagan will be seeking another White House four-year term and will most likely announce his intentions by the end of the year.

With over ten months left to go until the primaries in individual states, which normally throw light on the candidates' chances, more people are joining the race for the presidency.

The list of candidates, which includes Democrats — former Vice-President Walter Mondale in the Carter administration, Senator Cranston, Hart and others — is swelling. Recently Senator Ernest Hollings, from South Carolina, announced his decision to join the race.

Stormy debates broke out between the FRG, whose representative chaired the meeting, and France. The French Minister Michel Rocard, accused Romuald Michalak of carrying out "patriotic policies in the agrarian sector".

The situation in this sector became particularly bad following the upward revaluation of the Deutsche mark and the devaluation of the French franc.

The French Minister told the meeting that the West German position was prejudicial to the interests of the other EEC members. This situation puts under question the very existence of the common agricultural policy.

Neither did the session approve the proposal made by the Belgian State Secretary on Community Affairs and Agriculture, Paul De Kermakar, who spoke in favour of separate consultations between the FRG and France.

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Round the Soviet Union

SPRING FOREST PLANTATIONS HAVE BEEN STARTED AROUND MOLDAVIAN RESERVOIRS. The trees and shrubs will strengthen the river banks and protect the soil from erosion. The 15,000-hectare plantation has been provided by the comprehensive programme for the protection of water resources in the republic, which lies in the south-west of the USSR.

A ZOOLOGICAL EXPEDITION JUST RETURNED FROM THE FAR EASTERN TAIGA HAS PUT THE NUMBER OF NOW RARE URSU TIGERS THERE AT AROUND 200. Unlike the Bengal or Sumatra tiger they have fury coats to protect them from severe frosts. Fifty years ago the Ursu tiger was on the verge of extinction because of unregulated hunting, which was banned altogether in 1948.

NAVIGATION HAS STARTED ON THE SUKHONA RIVER IN THE NORTH-EUROPEAN PART OF THE COUNTRY. Despite drifting ice a caravan of 130 vessels set sail on its maiden voyage beginning with the most arduous and important phase of the entire navigation shipping freight to the outlying eastern areas of the Vologda Region. While Sukhona's tributaries are navigable, 90,000 tonnes of various freight will have to be quickly delivered to Veliky Ustyug and Nikolsk.

FLAX IS A NEWCOMER TO THE HIGH-ALTITUDE PLANTATIONS OF THE OISSAR RANGE. The first ever flax field in Tajikistan has now been planted. This year the crop will be grown on many farms in the Kashkadarya Region.

THE 100-TONNE FLOATING "CHERNOMORET" CRANE, WHICH HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE SHIPYARDS OF THE SEVASTOPOLSKY MORSKOI ZAVOD ASSOCIATION, IS DESIGNED FOR WORK IN POLAR AREAS. The crane is to operate in the port of Murmansk in the North. It has been designed to withstand considerable loads. Also improved is its refuse purification system which will prevent pollution of the sea.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

LESSONS OF GARP

The ZNANIE-SILA magazine has printed an article on the results of the first Global Atmosphere Research Programme (GARP).

In 1979, the magazine notes, the world's first hydro-meteorological observation system was set up to almost completely cover the atmosphere of the world. Many interesting things have emerged during the process of gathering the vast amount of material. Before the experiment began, a prediction of the size and location of areas of air pressure in the southern hemisphere could only produce a weather forecast for the next forty-eight hours. Now, with information coming directly from the global experiment, it has become possible to forecast weather five days in advance.

The first global experiment has discovered intensive air circulation at the height of 10-12 thousand metres. It appears that there is an active flow of air from one hemisphere to the other across the equator. This newly discovered phenomenon indicates that in order to understand atmospheric behaviour over longer spans of time, it is necessary to take an overall view of the entire globe. When an attempt was made to exclude one hemisphere from the calculations, the forecast for the other became far less reliable. Therefore, scientists have come to the indisputable conclusion that reliable weather forecasts can only be made by weather forecasters in all countries cooperate.

COMPETITION TO STIMULATE INVENTION

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA tells of an exciting competition for the originators of the brightest ideas, which is regularly held at the Novokramatorsk engineering works in the Ukraine. Workers, designers, en-

SIBERIA'S FIRST METRO



In the photo you see the experimental tunnelling complex for the metro. It is operating in the line which will pass under Krasny Prospekt, Novosibirsk's main street. Here, in Novosibirsk, Siberia's largest industrial and scientific centre, they are building a metro-bridge over the Ob River and a metro which is the first in the entire huge region. The metro's first 18.1 km leg will link the city's left bank section with the right bank centre.

EUROPE'S LARGEST HYDROTECHNICAL COMPLEX

An eighth unit has become operational at the Cheboksary hydroelectric power station on the Volga, the Europe's biggest river. The station has a capacity of 1,400,000 kW.

The construction of the station is a significant event, as it is the final stage of Europe's biggest hydrotechnical complex.

This Volga chain boasts eight power stations with a total capacity of nearly 9,000,000 kW and an annual production of more than 40,000 million kWh of electricity. The reservoirs, created by the stations' dams, help irrigate millions of hectares of previously arid tracts.



Anatoly Duncis, tunnelling team leader. They are making tunnel between the stations Sportivnaya and Studencheskaya in Novosibirsk.

glancers and vocational training school students take part. Questions vary from problems concerning the immediate employment of the participants, to so-called production "bottlenecks". People coming up with the most original answers receive prizes from the engineering works. The ideas run a wide gamut — from quite practical solutions to problems. Many of the ideas discussed at the auction are fairly plain sailing for local experts at the plant—but the competition organizers are motivated by more than purely economic benefits; the main aim being to give young people a taste for scientific and technological pursuits.

THE FUTURE IN THE MIRROR OF THE PAST

Soviet paleontologists now have evidence leading them to believe that giants didn't roam the world in the Mesozoic Era, 160 to 167 million years ago. The SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA newspaper writes that their latest finds bring them to the conclusion that the fauna of those days was dominated by small animals, rather than by giants, as was previously thought, with turtles, tortoises, lizards, pterodactyls and bony fish predominating among the former. For the first time in this country, bones of the aquatic form of Mesozoic birds contemporary to the dinosaurs, and of forest birds which lived in the Cretaceous Period, have been found. This has filled the gap of twenty million years in our knowledge, for the remains of these animals have been found practically nowhere else on earth.

THE VIRTUES OF CAMELS

The camel has long been seen as the most valuable inhabitant of the desert, argues D. Balramov, director of the Economic Institute of the State Planning Committee of the Turkmen SSR, writing in IZVESTIA. Back in 1929, there were 1,700,000 camels in this country, Syria and the other deserts in Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Paradoxically, today, despite improved pasture land and water supplies, there are but 250,000 camels on our farms nationwide. Significantly, desert exports have estimated that the Karakum alone can support up to 300,000 camels with no damage to sheep-breeding.

It is not time, therefore, to return the camel to its original habitat, Balramov argues, all the more so in that deserts in Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan account for over 2,100,000 out of the world's total area of 20,000,000 sq km of desert land, while every tonne of the produce from cattle pastured there is half as cheap to produce as it is elsewhere. In the country, there are many supporters of camel-breeding, Balramov points out.

Mountain fish farms

The construction of a large salmon fish farm has been started in Northern Ossetia, an autonomous republic in the Northern Caucasus. The fry grown at the confluence of the Ardon and Flagon rivers will then be taken to unpopulated reservoirs near the Caspian Sea and in the lower reaches of the Terek River.

The climatic conditions in Northern Ossetia along with its lakes and clear mountain rivers favour the speedy development of the fisheries. The technique of raising fish in man-made reservoirs has been mastered. The fry develop well and gain a great throughput.

Soviet engineers have also helped build metros in Budapest, Bucharest, Zagreb, Sofia, Warsaw, Helsinki, Marseilles, and Prague. They are also working in Calcutta now, it being the first Indian experience of the kind, to be used later in Delhi, Madras, and Bombay.

Byelorussians restore

melloration canals

Ancient Oginsky Canal, which was dug in Byelorussia nearly two centuries ago, has been put to the service of farmers. Land reclamation specialists have deepened and broadened its bed and built some locks, regulation pipes, and crossings. The canal has been linked with a 15-hectare reservoir which has just been commissioned. All these structures will help preserve the spring flood water which used to be drained into rivers and is now to be used to irrigate the fields in the dry season to ensure stable bread yields. Over an area of more than 3,000 hectares tractors and other machine operators have replaced the open drainage system with an earthware one, expanding the area of the fields and opening up large spaces for effective use by agricultural machines.

Apart from the development of large new tracts, the Byelorussians have restored a number of obsolete melloration systems since the beginning of the present five-year plan period in 1981.

New water reservoirs have been dug up and a complex of hydrotechnical structures has been erected to regulate the moisture content in the soil. Related crops are immediately started on the improved lands. The increased yields allow the resources more efficiently, including irrigation, water supply and river transportation.

mov points out. Turkmenia, for one, is planning to set up eight state-run camel-breeding farms, and to increase its camel population to 220,000, from which it is hoped to obtain 9,300 tonnes of meat, 500 tonnes of wool and 54,400 tonnes of milk, the paper emphasizes.

THE FUTURE IN THE MIRROR OF THE PAST

Soviet paleontologists now have evidence leading them to believe that giants didn't roam the world in the Mesozoic Era, 160 to 167 million years ago. The SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA newspaper writes that their latest finds bring them to the conclusion that the fauna of those days was dominated by small animals, rather than by giants, as was previously thought, with turtles, tortoises, lizards, pterodactyls and bony fish predominating among the former. For the first time in this country, bones of the aquatic form of Mesozoic birds contemporary to the dinosaurs, and of forest birds which lived in the Cretaceous Period, have been found. This has filled the gap of twenty million years in our knowledge, for the remains of these animals have been found practically nowhere else on earth.

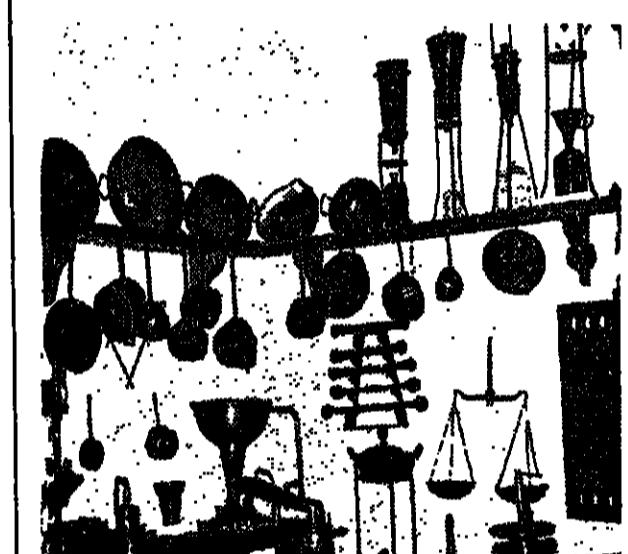
Paleontology tells us about the earth's ecological history. Could it, perhaps, tell the pollarding the future? If one undertakes to make a study of the patterns of the processes of the past and their consequences one may reach an understanding of the regular changes in the biosphere. This, in turn, could be taken into account in attempts to influence the environment.

By studying ancient organisms, we can learn a lot about present-day animals and plants, and determine which are survivals of past epochs and which have failed to live a long time on earth. And the discovery will reveal secrets — unique monuments of the past — which give us some idea of what these creatures looked like.

Places to visit



Drugstore-museum in Lvov



There is nothing particularly grand or architecturally exciting about a certain house standing near the market-place in Lvov. It has left, however, quite a trace in the history of the city. In the 18th century a druggist opened here which has been in business ever since. In 1980, a drugstore-museum, the first in the Ukraine and the second in this country, was set up in the house.

There are colourful 19th-century frescos on its ceilings bearing the Latin inscriptions, Aer, Aquis, Aqua et Terra — Air, Fire, Water and Earth — and symbolizing the four elements, of which according to the Ancient Greek philosopher Empedocles, all things are made.

The interior of the house looks very much like it used to be.

The only change is the increased number of pharmaceutical appliances and documents on the history of pharmaceuticals. These come from drugstores in Lvov, Drohobych and other Ukrainian cities. In addition to dispensing medicine, the chemists give advice to clients, answer their questions and conduct guided tours of the museum.

In a word, this drugstore-museum is fully operational.

RED DATA BOOK IN UZBEKISTAN

The Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan has published a Red Data Book featuring 63 types of mammals, fish and reptiles which live in the republic under state protection. The protection measures helped preserve a range of rare animals, specifically the Kyrgyz moushion which was on the verge of extinction just ten years ago; there are now 700 such animals in a specially protected preserve, Kazakhstan, another republic in the south of this country, has preserved and increased the number of the wild onager.

Ventilation units use up a seventh of the country's total electricity consumption. That's why a one per cent rise in their efficiency would have the equivalent amount of electricity generated by one big power station. Advanced ventilation developed by specialists in Tashkent (the Uzbek) and in Dushanbe (the Tajik) will provide this saving.

The Red Data Book of the USSR lists endangered animals and plants, including the Turan tiger, the Atlantic walrus, and the Bukhara deer. Nature conservation has always been a matter of state concern. The country boasts

Science and technology

SYMPHOSIUM ON CONSERVATION

MEASURES FOR THE BALTIC

The scientists who attended the international symposium recently held in this country examined the ecological aspects involved in the protection of the Baltic from pollution. Soviet specialists presented their mathematical and ecological models which are used to study, forecast and even control processes taking place in the sea.

The Baltic Sea, which has a shore line of 20,000 kilometres, is one of the seas particularly liable to pollution, as the countries on its shores account for 15 per cent of the world's industrial output. Taking into account the scale of danger, Soviet scientists have started developing an interdisciplinary regional scheme for the protection of the sea until the year 2000. At present, 150 major industries and 40 cities in this country have stopped dumping unpurified water into the Baltic. The Leningrad and Kaliningrad regions, and the Baltic republics now have 1,500 mechanical, physical-and-chemical, and biological purification plants, most of which are sited along the rivers emptying into the Baltic.

Scientists estimate that there are nearly 1,400 species of wild plants. Half of them can be used for medicinal purposes, and form basis of phytotherapy. Today, botanists studying the properties of medicinal herbs have discovered certain qualities which are sometimes much more effective than artificial pharmaceutical preparations.

The Lithuanian scientists' work has helped to provide valuable information on which medicinal herbs grow where and has also defined which plants need man's help. Many of these plants have already been entered into the Red Data Book of Lithuania and the U.S.S.R.

LAZER IMPROVES WHEAT STRAIN

Byelorussian selectionists have grown a new wheat strain called "Lyubov".

Their experience proves that the laser beam can affect plants' heredity without destroying life in the seeds. On the contrary, they survive much better and produce a variety of tough progeny. Many experiments were conducted over a period of seven years on irradiating seeds under various conditions and the optimal ones were selected, stressed I. Khotimsky.

There are colourf

khov, head of the biological group, the laboratory of laser systems and instruments at the Institute of Physics (Byelorussian Academy of Sciences). The new "Lyubov" wheat strain was the result of our work. The new strain is highly productive — it yields between 300 and 1,200 kg per hectare more than the norm. It contains 12.1-15 per cent more protein, no longer wilts, is resistant to root rotting and does not crumble. It also bakes better and has a nicer taste.

A MAP OF THE 'GREEN' MEDICINE CHEST

A map showing the distribution of medicinal plants has been compiled by botanists from the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The map plots the area where medicinal herbs grow in this Baltic republic, situates the most suitable gathering time, and shows the overall reserves of the wild medicinal plants.

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For the first time in many years, large shoals of flatfish have been sighted off Soviet shores. The return of this valuable fish is attributed to the effective measures these plants have taken to protect the Baltic.

'KATRAN' GOES TO SEA

The Katran hydrostation will help prospectors pick up data accurately and quickly on the location of gas and hydrocarbons and solid minerals on the seabed.

Their experience proves that the laser beam can affect plants' heredity without destroying life in the seeds. On the contrary, they survive much better and produce a variety of tough progeny. Many experiments were conducted over a period of seven years on irradiating seeds under various conditions and the optimal ones were selected, stressed I. Khotimsky.

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all this also represents income for savings for the family, although not to an equal degree. Families with children of pre-school, school, or college age, as well as the aged receive most subsidization from the state. Parents pay just 15 to 20 per cent of the actual cost of sending child to a kindergarten or creche, where he or she is supervised by teachers and doctors and has three meals a day. The rest is covered by the public consumption funds. General education as well as vocational training and education at secondary technical schools, colleges and universities is free. Students attending the day departments of secondary special schools and universities receive grants, while the expenses (lodging, food, clothing plus living allowance) of students at vocational training schools are fully covered by the state.

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Students from the Kazakh Agricultural Institute have carried out an experiment which completely confirmed their theory. A forest of tall poplars has been growing for 18 years on a experimental field in a salt-pan desert, where for centuries only prickly bushes grew.

Specialists from both state and collective farms in the Kulunda Steppe, where salt-pans are to be developed, have shown an interest in the experiment.

TWO-HEADED SNAKE

The Institute of Zoology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, has one of the largest collections of fauna in the USSR. An unusual specimen has recently been sent to the Institute from Kirghizia — a snake with two heads, which aroused great interest among scientists.

As a rule, one cannot make a thorough study of the life of such monsters in natural conditions. In the museum researchers saw that the snake, which had been born with two heads as a result of a malfunctioning during its embryo stage, believes in general like an ordinary animal: readily reacting to sounds, smell and light. When the mouth in one head opens, the mouth in the other head does the same for a while, though it is usually closed. It is a two-headed snake, which is usually called a "two-headed snake".

State expenditure on providing the population with these benefits and allowances taken as a whole amounts of present to 12,000 million rubles annually. This is a twofold increase on what it was in the seventies, or 450 million rubles per every one of our 270 million citizens.

VIEWPOINT

The dynamics of well-being

Eduard PUSHKO

The Soviet Union entered the 1980s with an economic potential twice that of the early seventies. In human terms this means that in the past decade real incomes of the population have gone up by almost 5.5 times.

Contributing to

ENTERTAINMENT

PROFILES

DINARA ASANOVA



Looking at this slender young woman, reminiscent of a teenager, it is difficult to believe that she is a film director, a predominantly male profession. However, this is the case. Dinara Asanova is — believe it or not — a movie director.

Before entering the All-Union Institute for Cinematography (VGIK), Dinara worked for several years in Central Asia (she comes from this part of the world) at the Kirghizfilm Studios. She was assistant producer, played in minor roles — in a word she got to know the nuts and bolts of the cinema world from the inside. It was at the

Kirghizfilm Studios, incidentally, that she worked as assistant to the unusually talented Larisa Shepikko, then at the start of her career, on the film "Ideal". She thus experienced at first hand the full force of the weight which falls to the lot of a female film director. However, this only whetted her appetite to enter VGIK.

She was lucky — at the institute she fell into the hands of a remarkable human being: the teacher and movie director, Mikhail Roman, who believed in fostering an independent frame of mind in his students with due account being taken of their individuality.

The first major film Asanova made, "A Woodpecker Doesn't Suffer From Headaches", was about a young teenager whose parents refused to take him seriously. All the family pride was concentrated on the eldest son, a famous basketball player, with the younger boy forced to live in the shade of his fame. Not telling anyone he began to learn to play the drums in the loft. Completely losing himself in this activity, these were his only happy minutes. With a minimum of words, and in a surprisingly laconic style, Asanova forces us to become involved in the young boy's predicament to sympathize with her talent. For these reasons her latest film is awaited with great interest. Called "Boys" it is about teenagers, the theme that first brought Asanova success.

Tatyana SAVITSKAYA

Not all of Asanova's work has been well received. Two movies she made on "adult" themes — "Trouble" and "The Wife Has Left" — were only partly successful and something of a disappointment to admirers of her talent. For these reasons her latest film is awaited with great interest. Called "Boys" it is about teenagers, the theme that first brought Asanova success.

ROMANIAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

The 2nd festival of Romanian theatre has entered its final week at the Moscow Art Theatre, with a production of the play, "A Stormy Night", by Ion Luca Caragiale.

This festival helps further develop and deepen cooperation between our two countries. It

promotes greater friendship between the Romanian and Soviet peoples and the mutual enrichment of their socialist cultures, said Yuri Barabash, First Deputy Minister of Culture of the USSR who noted that taking part in this year's festival are 58 theatres from all the fifteen

NEW OPERA AT THE KIROV



The first building of the Bolshoi Kamenny Theatre in St. Petersburg, the predecessor to Leningrad's Kirov Theatre. A 19th-century line cut, A scene from the opera, "Peter the Great".

The premiere took place recently at the Kirov Opera and Ballet Theatre, in Leningrad, of Andrei Petrov's opera, "Mayskovsky Begins". This work completes the composer's dramatic triptych, including the operas "Peter the Great" and "Pushkin, Reactions on a Poet".

This year the theatre, celebrates its 200th anniversary. Jubilee repertoire opened with a

production of "Peter the Great". This, of course, is no accident — the opera tells the story of Russia's great reformer and founder of our city on the Neva, says Kirov chief conductor Yuri Temirkanov. We will be putting on productions of the entire encyclopaedia of classics of Russian opera, as well as all major operas by foreign composers.

70 operas by Soviet composers were given their first production at our theatre.

In May and June, we will be coming to Moscow with a programme of ten operas, and eleven ballets and several gain concerts. The repertoire for this tour has been specially chosen to include our "golden" productions and premières as well as our leading singers, he stressed.

NEW LENIN SERIAL ON SOVIET TV

A new serial, called "V. I. Lenin, Scenes From His Life", about the leader of the 1917 Revolution and founder of the Soviet state, is now showing all over the country on Central TV.

This is not the first time that Soviet film makers have turned their attention to Lenin — one only has to think of the following films which have become classics in their own right: "Lenin in October" and "Lenin in 1918", with a brilliant performance by Boris Shchukin as Lenin. However, there has been nothing to match the depth and scope of the present serial which amounts, in fact, to a documentary chronicle covering all stages in the great man's life.

The first three films in the serial, "The Simbirsk Trilogy", about Lenin's childhood and adolescence in the Volga-side town of Simbirsk and about his

family, received their first showing on the eve of his birthday on April 22, the 113th anniversary of which falls this year.

Work is in progress on the next films in the cycle, "A Way Once Chosen" about Lenin's student years at Marx University, and the beginning of his revolutionary career. The last part of the serial, which is to run into more than twenty films, deals with January 1917 — the month the great leader died.

Although the serial is conceived as a document, it is known Soviet action film, thus adding an artistic dimension to the chronicle.

This is the first attempt to portray an in-depth biography of the Soviet leader on the screen, says the author of the scenario, writer and director Yegor Yakovlev.

INDIAN ART

As part of their "20th-Century Foreign Artists" series the Moscow Izobrazitelnoye Iskusstvo Publishers have put out an album dedicated to the major Indian woman artist, Amrita Sher Gil (1913-41).

The prodigiously gifted artist, who died early in life, created a whole gallery of portraits of her contemporaries, as well as reflecting the life and customs of her native land. The album contains articles on Sher Gil's life

and work penned by Irina Stepanova, Candidate of Sciences (Art), from the Eastern division of the All-Union Institute of Art Criticism. In the 20 years she has been studying modern Indian art, Stepanova has written many books and articles among them, "The Art of the Bengali Renaissance". At present the Nauka Publishers are getting ready to put out "Sketches of Contemporary Indian Aesthetic Thought".

Involved in large-scale joint projects. For instance, the ore-enrichment factory in Kostomuksha and the cellulose integrated works in Svetlogorsk, Finmash also contributes towards the Soviet Food Programme. For example, we are going to build a dairy factory in Norilsk, and we have other offers too.

Valo, the central union of Finnish dairy cooperatives, had very interesting items on display.

Our ties with the USSR are not limited by just deliveries of cheese and other products, said a Valo representative, the USSR will be using our design to build one dairy and one cheese factory. We hope the exhibition will encourage further development in Soviet-Finnish cooperation in the agro-industrial field.

Finmash, said Marketing Manager Heikki Malmala, is



Amrita Sher Gil. "Mother India", 1935. • "Camels", 1941.

WHAT'S ON!

April 23-25

THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin), 23 (mat. and eve), 24 (mat), 25 — Variety concert. Bolshoi Theatre performance: 24 (eve) — Verdi, "Il Trovatore" (opera).

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq.), 23 — Mussorgsky, "Boris Godunov" (opera), 24 (mat) — Prokofiev, "Bolero in the Monastery" (opera); 24 (eve) — Tchaikovsky, "The Sleeping Beauty" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.), 23 — Adam, Delibes, "Coraline" (ballet), 24 (mat) — Morozov, "Doctor Doolittle" (ballet), 25 — Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" (ballet).

Opera Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.), 23 (mat) — Feltman, "Let the Guitars Play"; 23 (eve) — Pichkin, "Wedding With the General"; 24 (mat and eve) — Glazkov, "Kholtubych"; 24 (eve) — Miliutin, "Girls in a Flurry"; 25 — Gaidai, "A Crossroads".

Friendship House (10 Profsoyuznaya St.), 23 — exhibition "Friendship of Peoples"; 24 (eve) — Pascual, "Earth"; 25 — exhibition of watercolours by visitors.

FILMS

The Formula of Light (Mosfilm Studios, USSR).

About a man of firm convictions and broad outlook who actively stands up for his beliefs.

Cinema: "Metropolis" (1st Proletkult Marz), "Metro" (Proletkult Marz).

The Star and Death of Jezebel (Murmansk Film Studio, USSR).

A legend about a Chilean who found himself in a strange land. It is based on a play-invert by Fyodor Dostoevsky, with music by Nikolai Nekrasov's dramatic critics.

Chernomor (2nd Proletkult Marz), "Okyabr" (42 Profsoyuznaya St.), "Okyabr" (50 Profsoyuznaya St.), "Soviet Cinema 50".

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